



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO THE JOKER'S BIRTHDAY!

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CODE
AUTHORITY

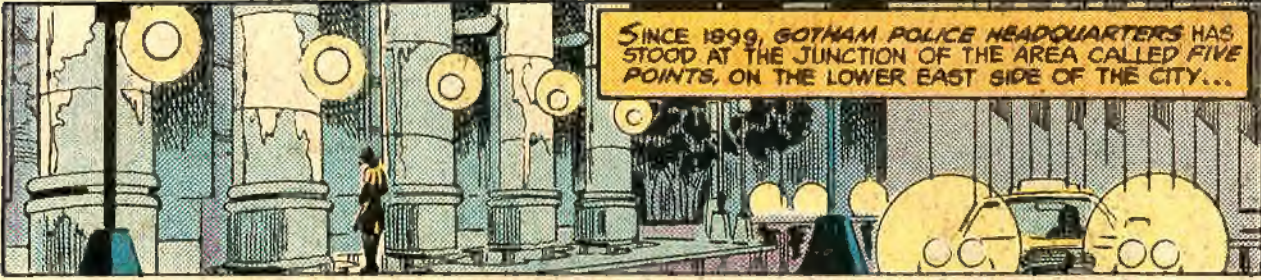
40¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 321
MAR.

BAT MAN



AND YOU'RE
ALL WELCOME
TO WATCH THE
FIREWORKS!





SINCE 1899, GOTHAM POLICE HEADQUARTERS HAS STOOD AT THE JUNCTION OF THE AREA CALLED FIVE POINTS, ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE OF THE CITY...

IN THE PAST 17 YEARS, COMMISSIONER JAMES W. GORDON HAS COME TO KNOW THE MARBLED CORRIDORS OF THIS PROUD OLD BUILDING WELL; IT HAS BECOME A SECOND HOME TO HIM--

--BUT TONIGHT, AS THE LEGENDARY BAT-SIGNAL SLASHES ACROSS A STORM-SWEPT SKY, IT MAY ALSO BECOME HIS TOMB!

BAT-MAN

CREATED BY BOB KANE

COMMISSIONER GORDON! I THINK THIS IS FOR YOU, SIR!

DREADFUL BIRTHDAY, DEAR JOKER...!

LEN WEIN WRITER	WALT & DICK SIMONSON GIORDANO ARTISTS
GLYNIS WEIN COLORIST	BEN ODA LETTERER
	PAUL LEVITZ EDITOR

BATMAN® (USPS 045-340), Vol. 41, No. 321, March, 1980. Published monthly by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Second Class Postage paid at New York, N.Y. and Additional Mailing Offices. Copyright© 1979 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

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SUBSCRIPTION DEPT.: DC COMICS INC., 14 Vandewater Ave., Port Washington, N.Y. 11050. Annual subscription rate \$7.65. Outside U.S.A. \$8.65.

Jenette Kahn, Publisher
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IN THE GLORIOUS
PALE WHITE
FLESH!

CONSIDERING
YOUR CONDITION,
GENTLEMEN, YOU
NEEDN'T STAND-- BUT
I WOULD APPRECIATE
A ROUSING ROUND
OF APPLAUSE!

AND WHATEVER
THE JOKER WANTS,
HE ALMOST INVARIABLY
GETS!

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

THAT UNHOLY
LAUGHTER--
AND THAT
OUTRAGEOUS
CAR!

IT DOESN'T
TAKE MUCH
EFFORT TO
FIGURE OUT
WHY GORDON
SUMMONED
ME!

THE JOKER MAY BE A
HOMICIDAL MANIAC
OF THE HIGHEST
ORDER-- BUT HE'S
CERTAINLY NOT
SNKY!

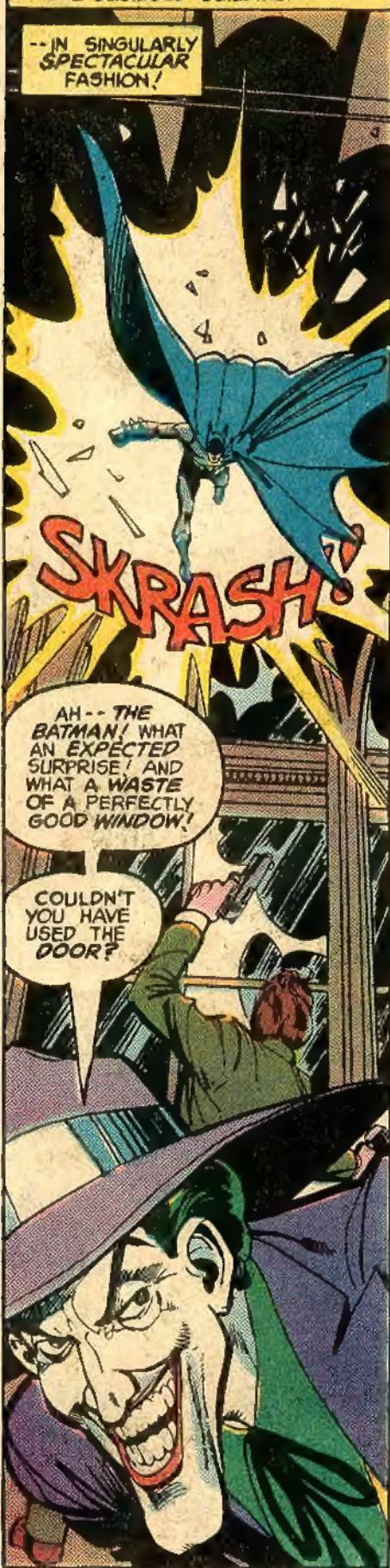
AND HE'S AS
CRAFTY AS
THEY COME!

JUDGING FROM
THE UNCONTROLLED
HYSTERIA I HEAR,
HE'S SOMEHOW
FILLED THE
BUILDING WITH
LAUGHING
GAS--

--BUT BEFORE
I'M DONE WITH
HIM, HE'LL BE LAUGHING
OUT OF THE OTHER
SIDE OF HIS TWISTED
CRIMSON MOUTH!

THEN, GAS FILTER CLENCHED TIGHTLY
IN HIS TEETH, THE DARK KNIGHT ENTERS
THE BESIEGED BUILDING--

--IN SINGULARLY
SPECTACULAR
FASHION!



AH-- THE
BATMAN! WHAT
AN EXPECTED
SURPRISE! AND
WHAT A WASTE
OF A PERFECTLY
GOOD WINDOW!

COULDN'T
YOU HAVE
USED THE
DOOR?

BUT THE BATMAN DOES
NOT REPLY--

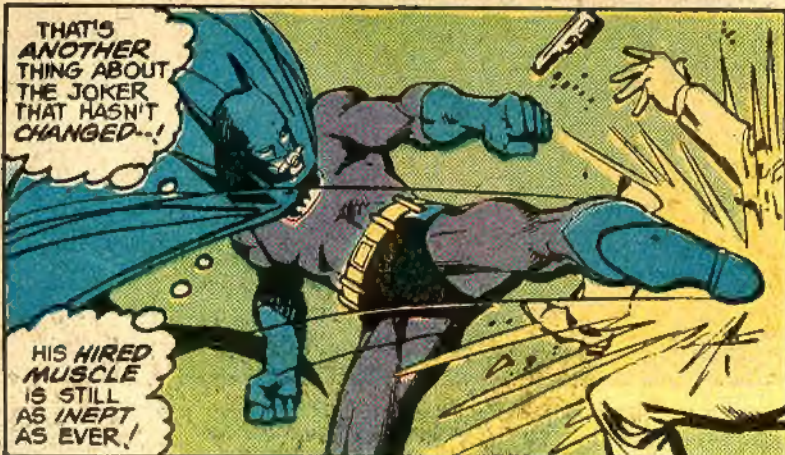


UNNEE!!

--AT LEAST,
NOT IN 50
MANY
WORDS!



LORD, HE'S
AS CRAZY
AS THE BOSS!



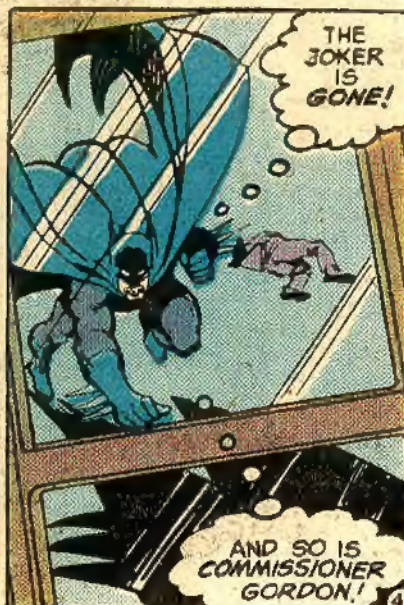
THAT'S
ANOTHER
THING ABOUT
THE JOKER
THAT HASN'T
CHANGED--!

HIS HIRED
MUSCLE
IS STILL
AS INEPT
AS EVER!



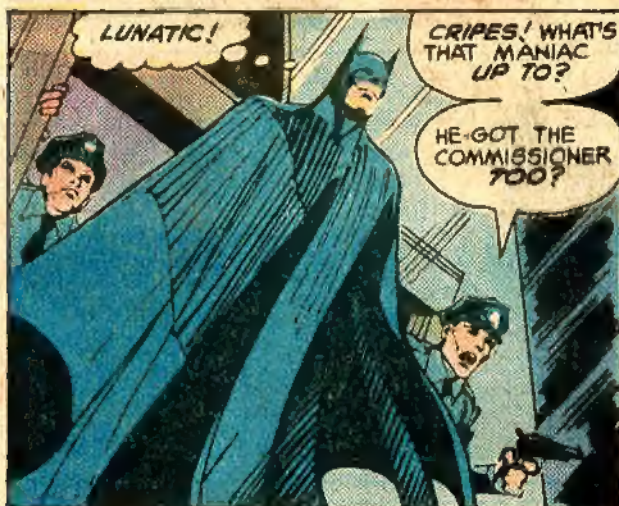
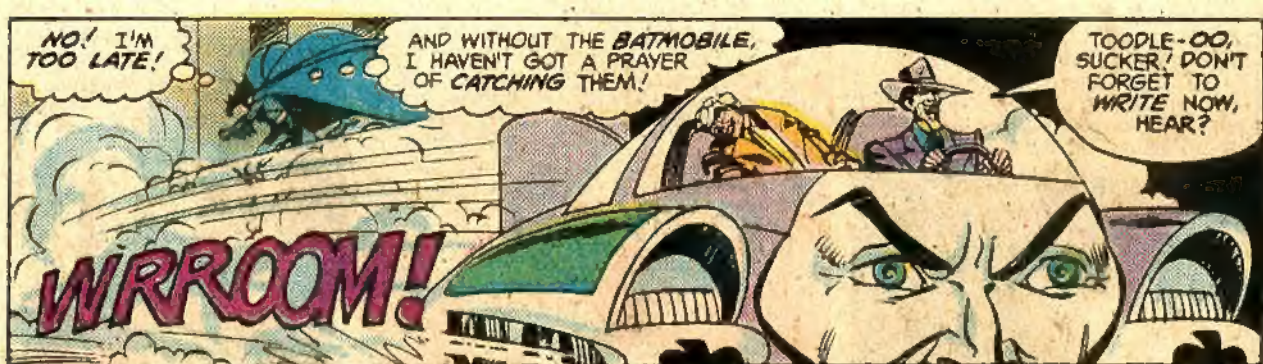
BUT WHY HAS
THAT GRINNING
GARGOYLE RISKED
INVADING
POLICE--

--EH?



THE
JOKER
IS
GONE!

AND SO IS
COMMISSIONER
GORDON!



SHORTLY, AT BRUCE WAYNE'S PENTHOUSE APARTMENT ATOP THE WAYNE FOUNDATION BUILDING, AS AN ODD BLACK SHAPE ECLIPSES THE COOL FULL MOON...



THANK YOU FOR THE ASPIRIN, ALFRED. THEY SEEM TO HELP... A LITTLE.

YOUR HEADACHES APPEAR TO BE GROWING MORE FREQUENT, MISS KYLE.

MIGHT I SUGGEST YOU SEE A DOCTOR--?

ACTUALLY, I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH BRUCE'S DR. DUNDEE IN--EH?

OH, EXCUSE ME-- I DIDN'T KNOW BRUCE HAD COMPANY, SELINA.

THAT'S OKAY, LUCIUS-- BRUCE CAN ONLY HAVE COMPANY IF HE'S HERE!



BRUCE IS OUT? BUT HE ASKED ME TO COME OVER TO DISCUSS THESE ARBITRAGE DEALS--!?

HE GOT CALLED AWAY... ON SUDDEN BUSINESS.

I'D HAVE THOUGHT YOU OF ALL PEOPLE WOULD BE USED TO THAT, MR. FOX.



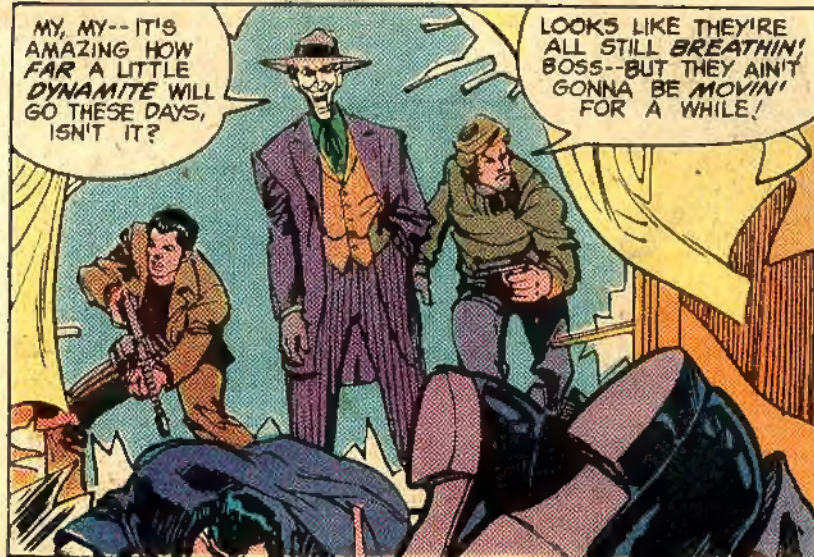
EH? FOOTSTEPS ON THE ROOF--? MASTER BRUCE MUST BE RETURNING!

BUT THOUGH ALFRED'S CONCERN IS NOT UNFOUNDED--

I'D BEST DISTRACT MASTER FOX AND MISS KYLE WHILE--

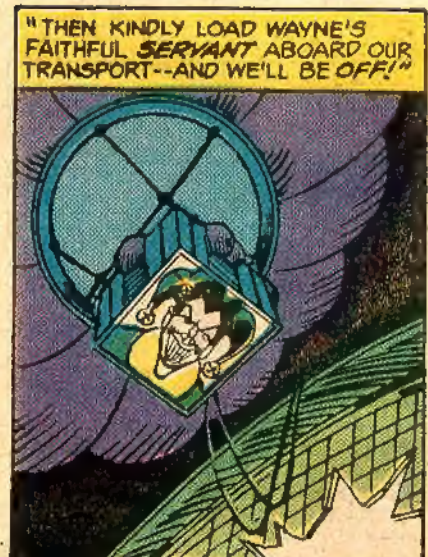
--HIS PLANNED DISTRACTION WILL HARDLY BE NECESSARY!





MY, MY-- IT'S AMAZING HOW FAR A LITTLE DYNAMITE WILL GO THESE DAYS, ISN'T IT?

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE ALL STILL BREATHIN' BOSS--BUT THEY AIN'T GONNA BE MOVIN' FOR A WHILE!



"THEN KINDLY LOAD WAYNE'S FAITHFUL *SERVANT* ABOARD OUR TRANSPORT--AND WE'LL BE OFF!"



YOU'VE BEEN OFF FOR AS LONG AS I'VE KNOWN YOU, JOKER!

WHAT--? COULD IT BE?

SELINA KYLE--THE SULTRY CATWOMAN--HERE???



IT NOT ONLY COULD BE SMILEY--



--IT VERY DEFINITELY IS!



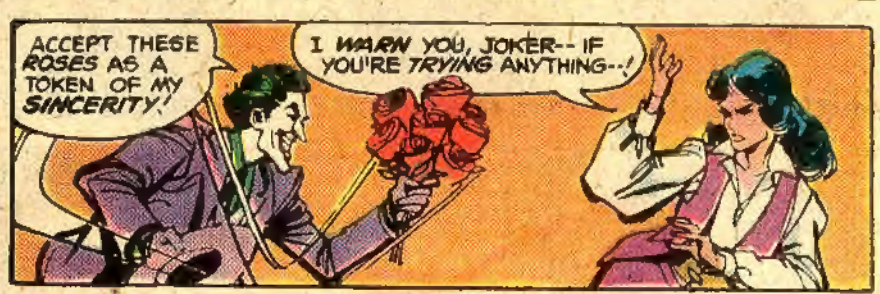
NOW WHY DON'T YOU AND YOUR TRAINED GORILLAS TAKE A HIKE, JOKER--

--WHILE YOU STILL CAN!



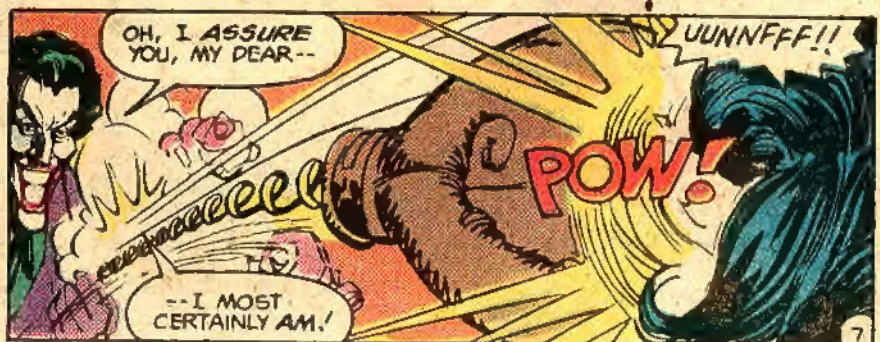
MY DEAR SELINA-- PLEASE!

I PROFUSELY APOLOGIZE IF I'VE ACCIDENTALLY INTERRUPTED A CAPER OF YOUR OWN!



ACCEPT THESE ROSES AS A TOKEN OF MY SINCERITY!

I WARN YOU, JOKER-- IF YOU'RE TRYING ANYTHING--!

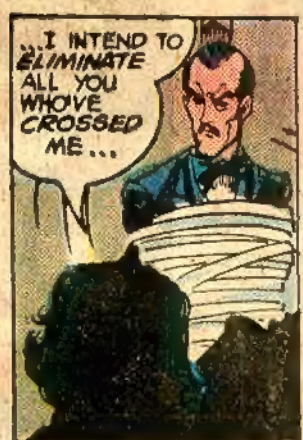
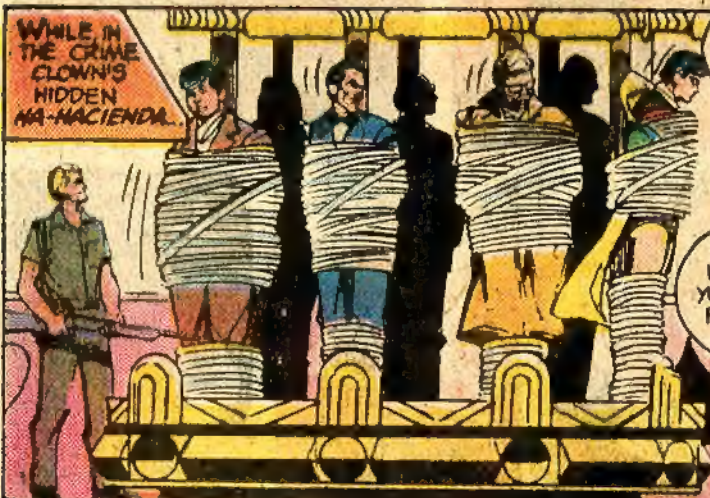


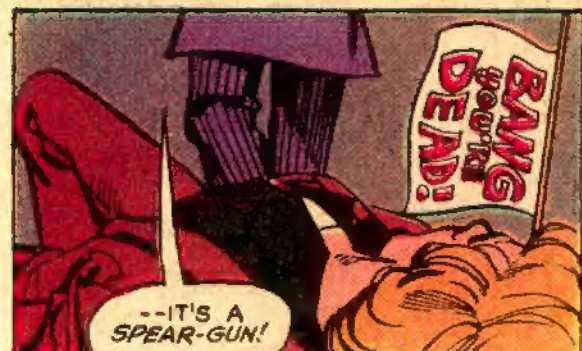
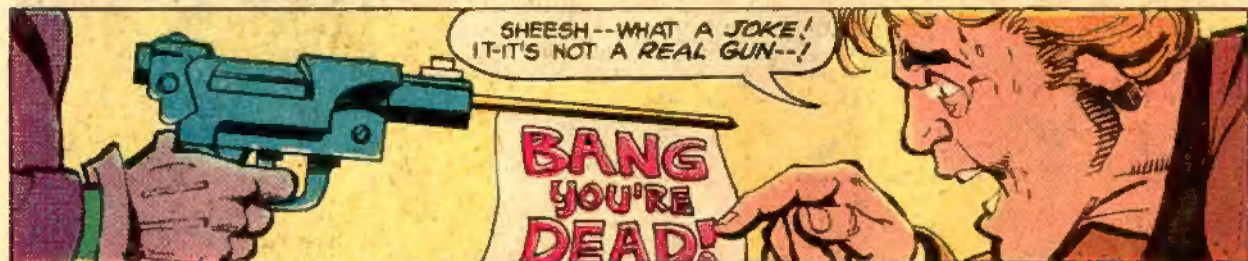
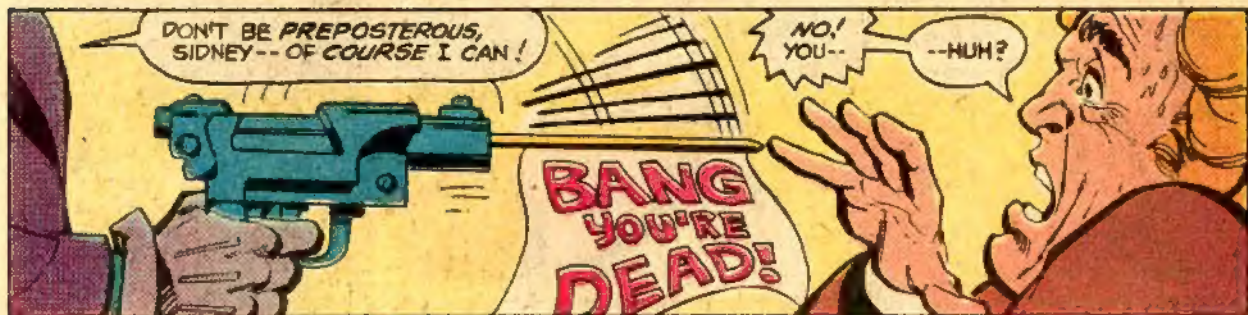
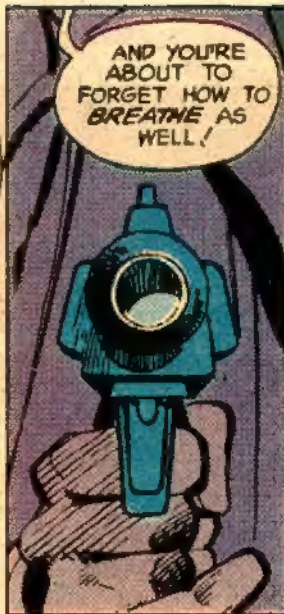
OH, I ASSURE YOU, MY DEAR--

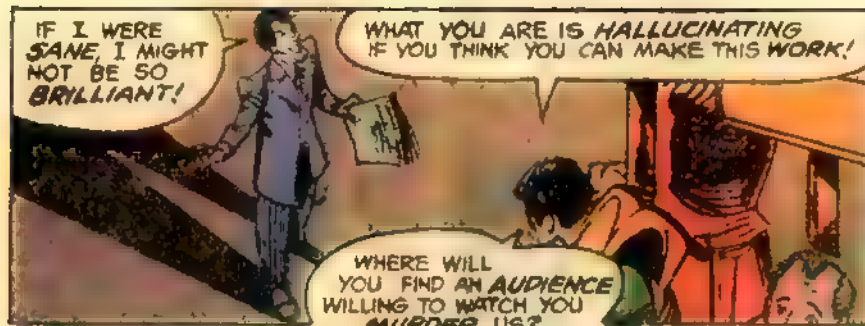
--I MOST CERTAINLY AM!

UUNNFFF!!

AND WHEN SELINA KYLE AT LAST REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS...



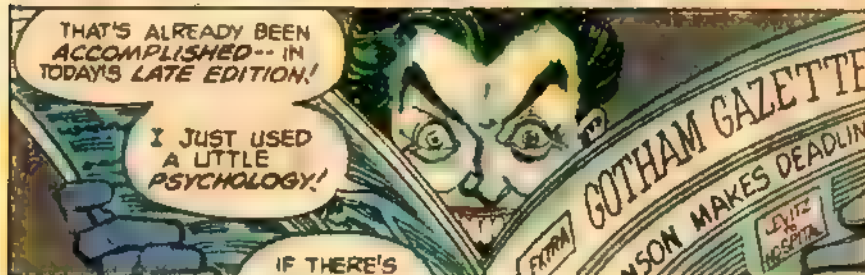




IF I WERE
SANE, I MIGHT
NOT BE SO
BRILLIANT!

WHAT YOU ARE IS HALLUCINATING
IF YOU THINK YOU CAN MAKE THIS WORK!

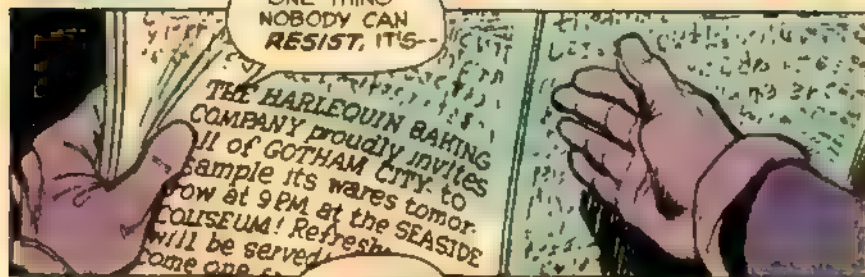
WHERE WILL
YOU FIND AN AUDIENCE
WILLING TO WATCH YOU
MURDER US?



THAT'S ALREADY BEEN
ACCOMPLISHED-- IN
TODAY'S LATE EDITION!

I JUST USED
A LITTLE
PSYCHOLOGY!

IF THERE'S
ONE THING
NOBODY CAN
RESIST, IT'S--



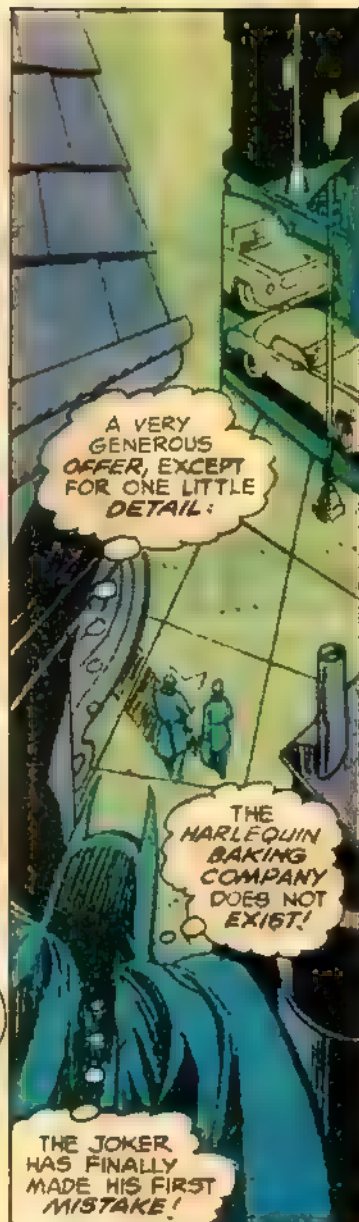
THE HARLEQUIN BAKING
COMPANY proudly invites
all of GOTHAM CITY to
sample its wares tomor-
row at 9 PM at the SEASIDE
COLISEUM! Refresh-
ments will be served
come one...

--A FREE
SAMPLE?



SOUNDS
TEMPTING!
THINK WE
OUGHT'A
GO?

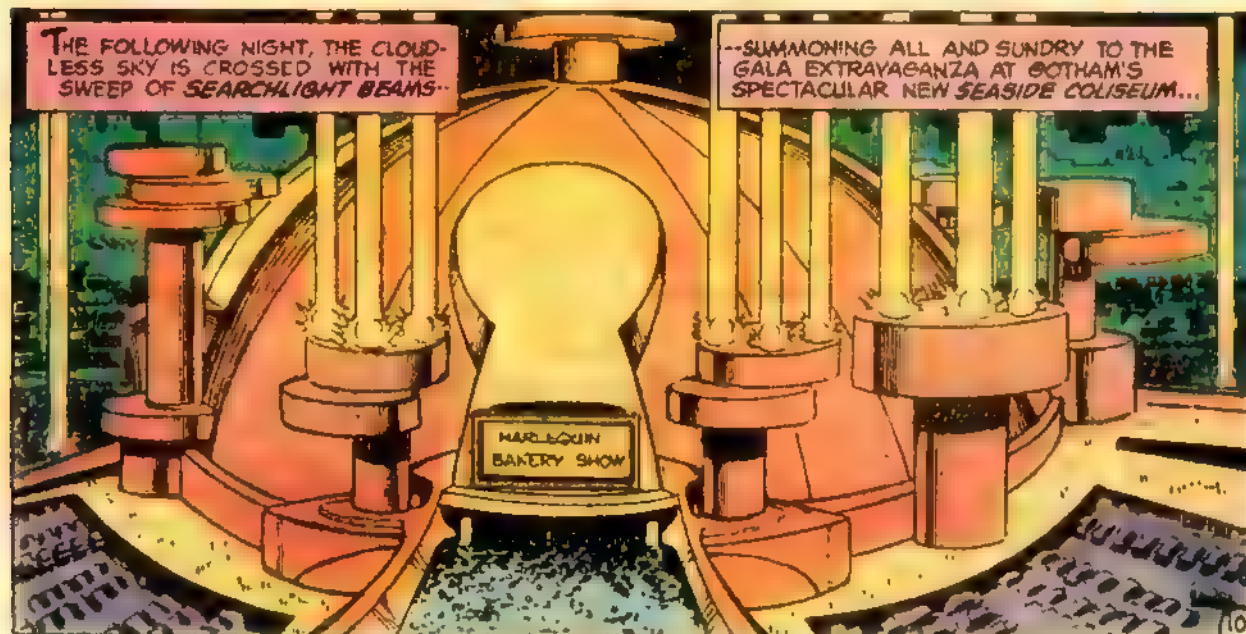
WHY NOT? IT'D
BEAT SITTING THROUGH
ANOTHER RERUN OF
CELEBRITY BOWLING!



A VERY
GENEROUS
OFFER, EXCEPT
FOR ONE LITTLE
DETAIL:

THE
HARLEQUIN
BAKING
COMPANY
DOES NOT
EXIST!

THE JOKER
HAS FINALLY
MADE HIS FIRST
MISTAKE!



THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, THE CLOUD-
LESS SKY IS CROSSED WITH THE SWEEP
OF SEARCHLIGHT BEAMS--

--SUMMONING ALL AND SUNDRY TO THE
GALA EXTRAVAGANZA AT GOTHAM'S
SPECTACULAR NEW SEASIDE COLISEUM...

HARLEQUIN
BAKERY SHOW

AND LIKE LEMMINGS, THEY COME,
LURED BY THE PROMISE OF
SOMETHING FOR NOTHING--

--PEOPLE WHO'VE
CHOSEN TO IGNORE
THAT WISE OLD ADAGE--

"THERE'S NO SUCH
THING AS A
FREE LUNCH!"

THE
COLISEUM
IS COMPLETELY
FILLED LONG
BEFORE THE
DESIGNATED
HOUR...

AND AT PRECISELY 9:00PM,
THE BUILDING'S HEAVY STEEL
DOORS CLICK SHUT--

--OMINOUSLY!

FOR SEVERAL LONG MINUTES,
THE CROWD BEHAVES AS CROWDS
ARE WONT TO DO--

--SOME SILENT, SOME
FIDGETING--

--SOME ALREADY
STAMPING THEIR
FEET WITH
IMPATIENCE--

--AND THEN, ABRUPTLY,
THEIR LONG WAIT IS OVER!

HEY,
WHAT--?!!

IT'S SOME
KIND'A
GAS--

--COMIN'
FROM THE
AIR-VENTS!

THE PARALYZING FUMES SPREAD SWIFTLY AND
WITHIN SECONDS, THERE IS NO MOVEMENT WITHIN
THE SPRAWLING MALL--

--SAVE THE FRENZIED BEATINGS
OF SEVERAL THOUSAND
FRIGHTENED HEARTS!

SUDDENLY, THE HOUSE-
LIGHTS BEGIN TO FLICKER
AND DIM--

AND THERE IS
DARKNESS!

AND THEN THERE IS--
THE JOKER!!



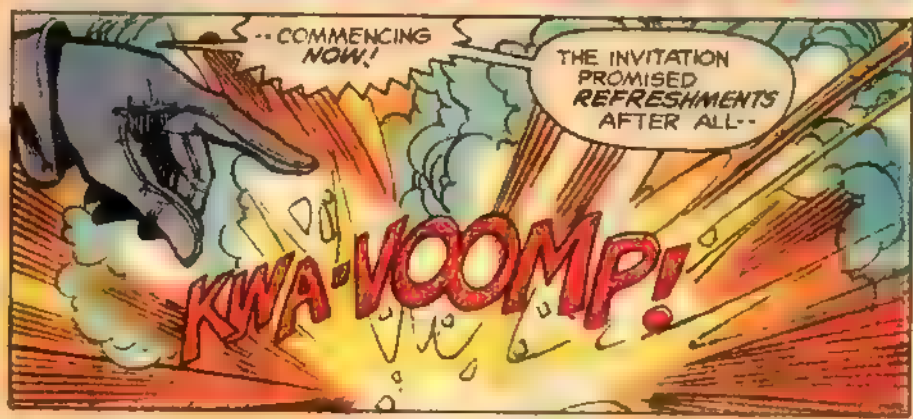
WELCOME, ONE AND ALL!



AND
THANK YOU
FOR COMING
TO MY
PARTY!



I THINK I CAN
ASSURE YOU
SURPRISES
GALORE--



-- COMMENCING
NOW!

THE INVITATION
PROMISED
REFRESHMENTS
AFTER ALL--

KWA-VOOMP!

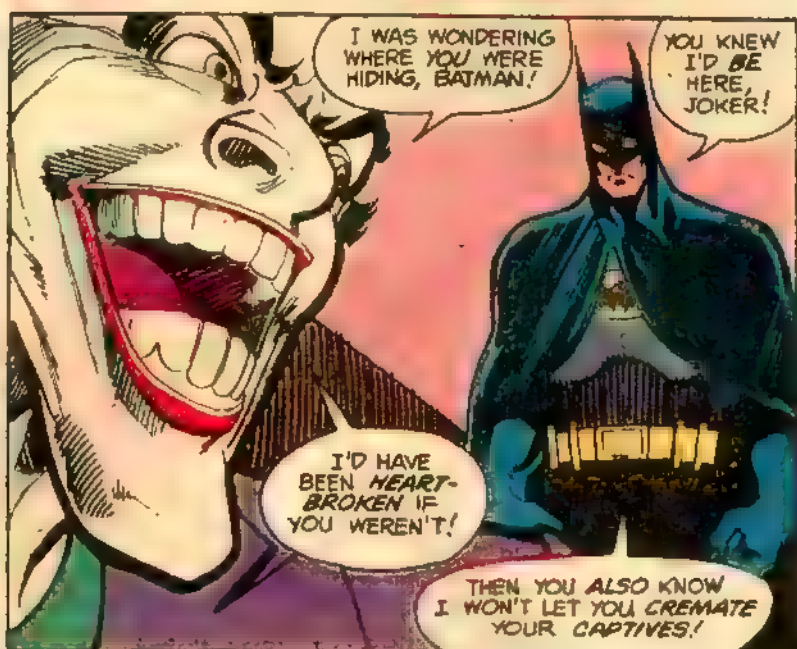
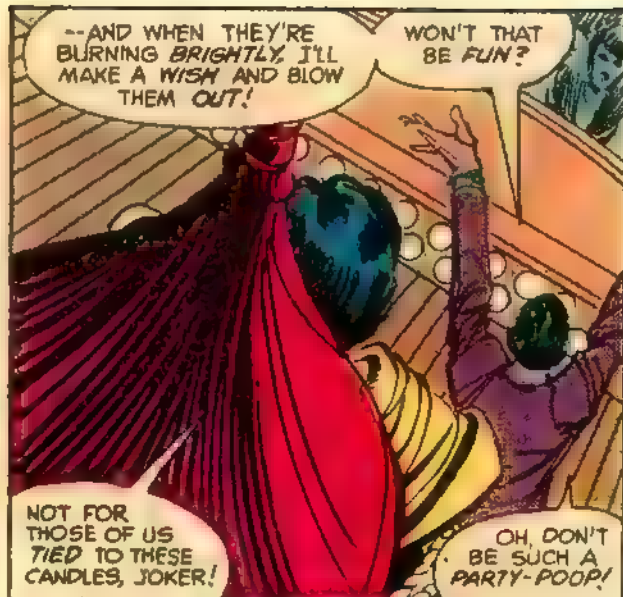


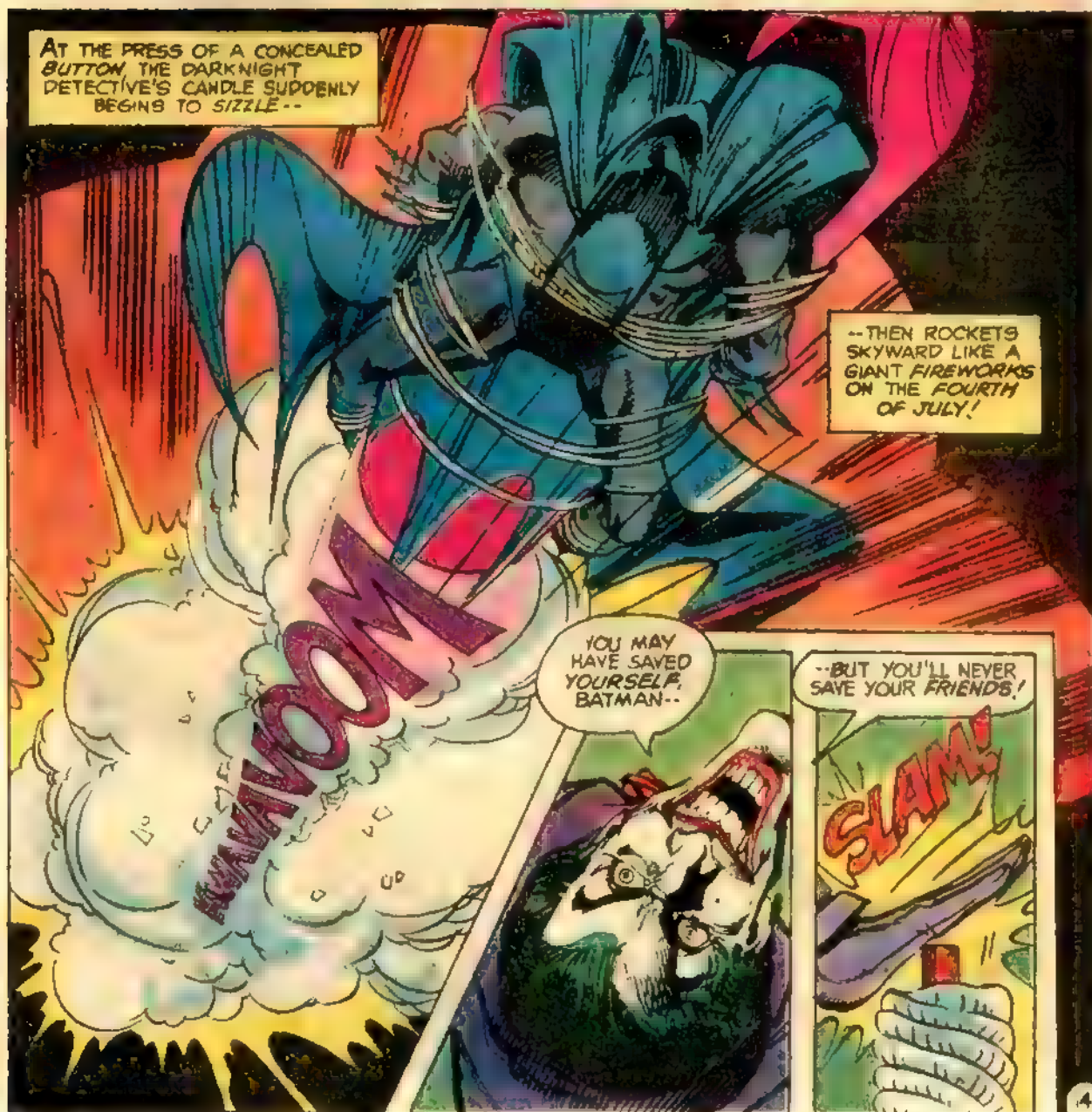
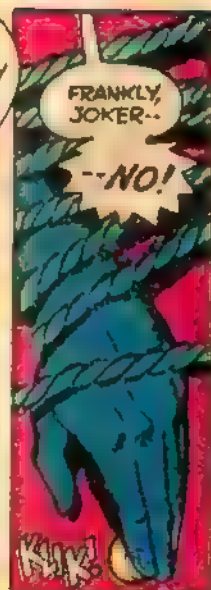
-- AND
THE JOKER
ALWAYS
DELIVERS!

PRESENTING, FOR
THE FIRST TIME ON
ANY STAGE, LIVE
AND IN COLOR, THE
CAKE TO END
ALL CAKES--

-- EVEN AS
IT ENDS THE
LIVES OF
MY GREATEST
ENEMIES!!

PLEASE
SAVE ALL YOUR
APPLAUSE
UNTIL THE
FINALE!





BUT EVEN
AS INFERNAL
DEATH CRACKLES
ACROSS THE STAGE--

--THE BATMAN EXPLODES
INTO ACTION!

COULDN'T RISK
TRYING TO **FREE** ROBIN
AND THE OTHERS WHILE
THEY WERE UNDER
THE JOKER'S GUNS--

--BUT I STILL GOT
HERE EARLY ENOUGH
TO RIG MY CANDLE'S
INCENDIARY JETS--

--TURNING THE
WHOLE THING INTO
A MAKESHIFT
ROCKET!

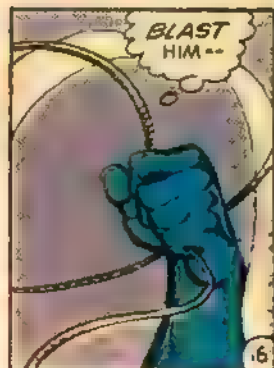
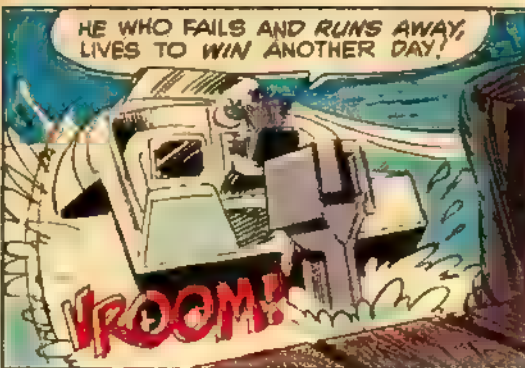
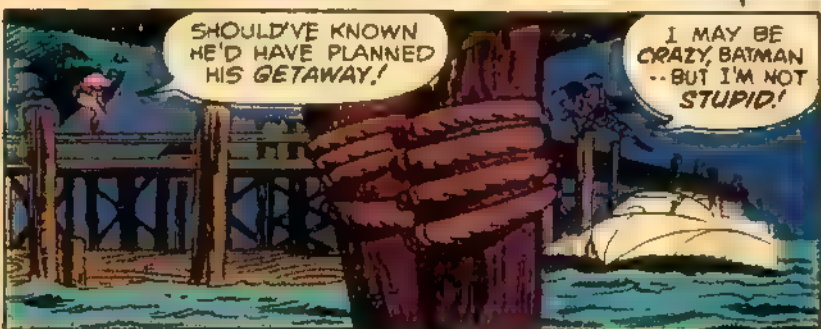
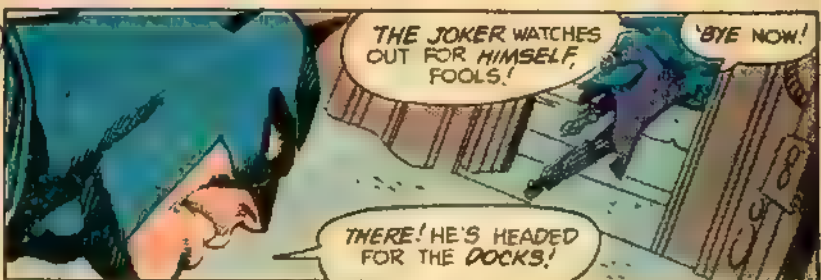
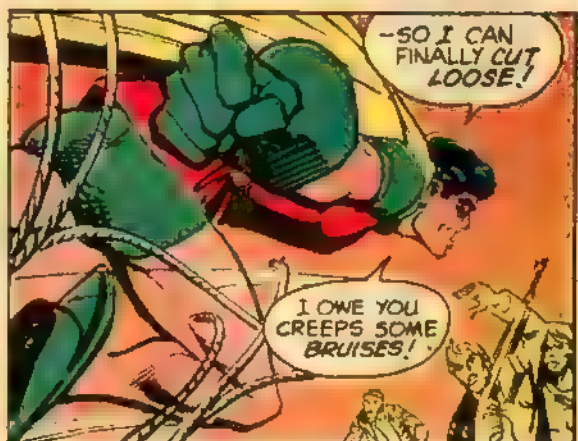
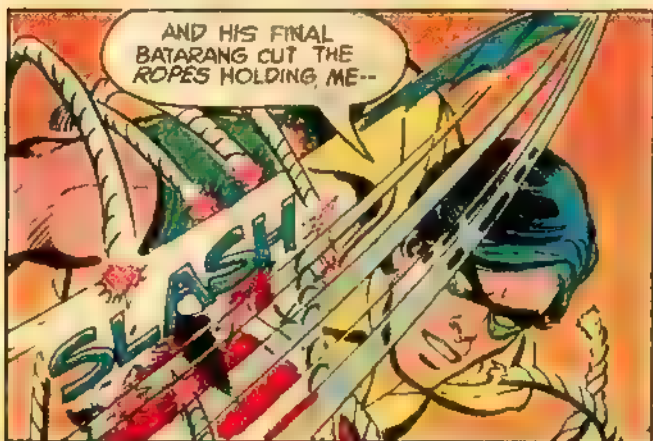
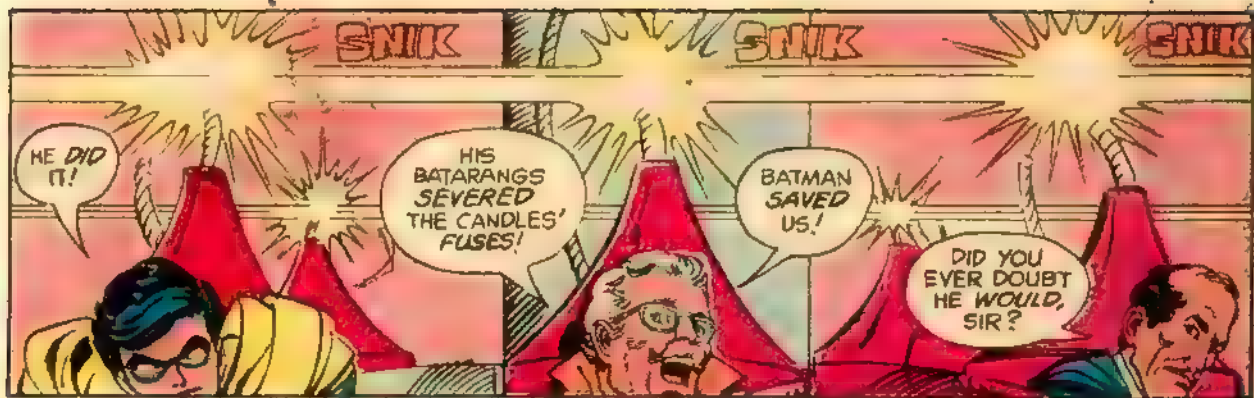
IT WAS RISKY--
BUT WHEN YOU'RE
UP AGAINST THE
JOKER, YOU DON'T
HAVE MUCH CHOICE!

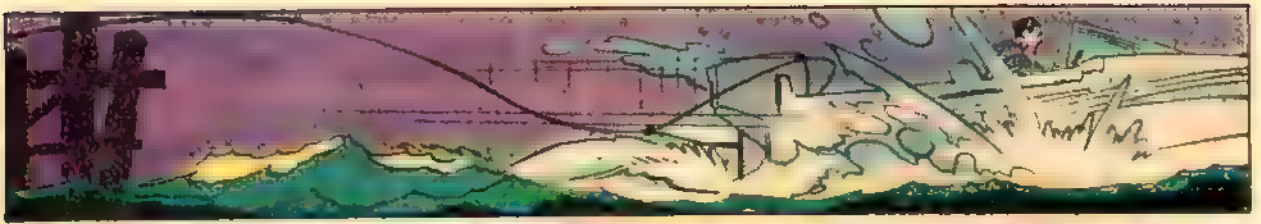
YOUR FRIENDS
ARE GOING TO
BURN, BATMAN
--BURN!!

HA HA
HA

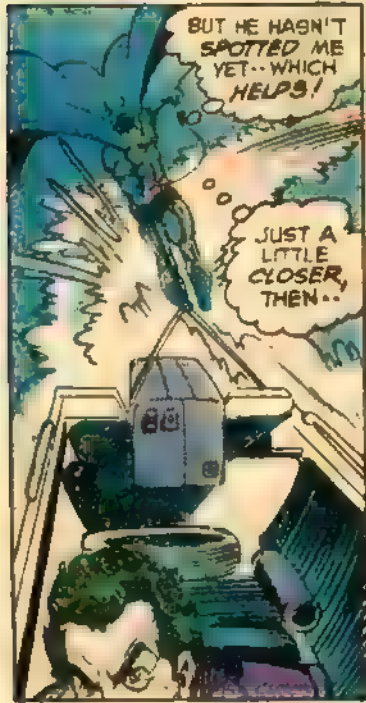
NO,
JOKER--

--NOT IF I
CAN HELP IT!





--HE NEVER MAKES IT EASY!



BUT HE HASN'T SPOTTED ME YET--WHICH HELPS!

JUST A LITTLE CLOSER, THEN...



AH, IT'S YOU AGAIN! NEVER GIVE UP, DO YOU?

NOPE! BUT IF YOU'RE SMART, JOKER--

-- YOU WILL!



I'VE HAD JUST ABOUT ENOUGH OF YOU FOR ONE NIGHT--

OH-- REALLY?

SQUIRREL!



--AND NO ACID-SQUIRTING FLOWERS OR ELECTRIFIED JOY-BUZZERS OR ANYTHING ELSE YOU CAN MUSTER IS GOING TO SAVE YOU FROM ME!

MY, WE ARE IN A SHIT, AREN'T WE?



UUNFF!!

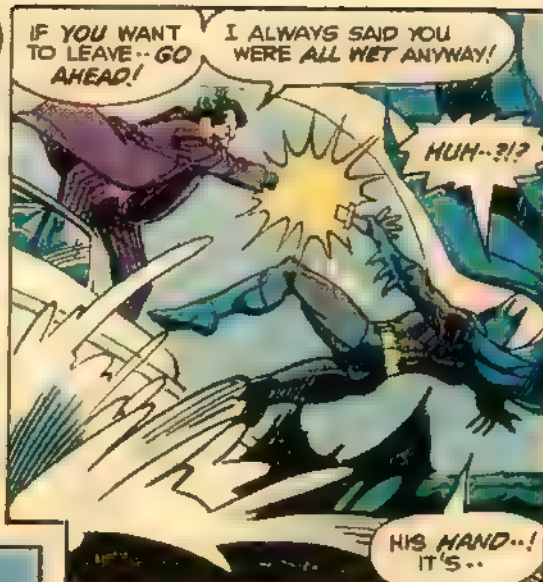
WOX!

BUT THE JOKER IS NOTHING IF NOT WELL-NEELED!



EH? THE BOAT'S OUT OF CONTROL!

WE'RE HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THOSE SHOALS!



NEXT ISSUE: SELINA KYLE'S LIFE STARTS TO COME APART AT THE SEAMS-- WHILE THE CAPED CRUSADER BATTLES CAPTAIN BOOMERANG!

"CHAOS"-- COMING AND GOING!
ON SALE JANUARY 10TH!

MYSTERY STUMPS SUPERMAN

CREATURE CHARMS CHILDREN OF METROPOLIS

(Metropolis)—Returning from a mission in deep space, *Superman* is unaware that he has been followed. Unfortunately for the people of Earth, it may now be too late to stop "The Creature That Charmed Children" as even the Man of Steel is baffled as to how the creature can be defeated. With amazing powers that can halt even *Superman*, the creature called Jorlan gains control over all of the children of Earth.

What is the creature's bizarre mission and who is the only man who can help *Superman* stop Jorlan? You won't want to miss this fabulous *Superman* saga by Cary Bates, Curt Swan and Frank Chiaramonte when *ACTION COMICS* #505 goes on sale the week of December 17th!



400 UNEXPECTED STILL THREE BOOKS IN ONE

(DC, New York)—*UNEXPECTED*, one of DC's most popular mystery titles, has reverted from Dollar Comic size to monthly forty cents format, but it still is three books in one. This issue's lead tales include "The Fear of Number 13" by Carl Wessler and Abe Ocampo and "Stranger, Beware" by Bill Dennehy and Jerry Grandenetti. Then Abel takes us to the *House of Secrets* for a bargain with Satan in "The Devil to Pay" by Mike W. Barr and Vicatan Jr. And the three witches announce the stroke of midnight, *The Witching Hour* with "Never Trust a Devil-Doll" by George Kashdan and Ernie Patricio.

Don't miss the first 400 issue of *UNEXPECTED*, #196, when it goes on sale the week of December 17th.

DIRECT CURRENTS

ON SALE WEEK OF DECEMBER 17th
BRAVE & BOLD #180—Her foster father, Fred Danvers, is kidnapped so *Supergirl* calls on *Batman* to track down "The Brimstone Connection" by Cary Burkett and Jim Aparo.

GREEN LANTERN #126—Earth is invaded by Qward in "The Peril Pact" by Denny O'Neil, Joe Staton and Frank McLaughlin.

SUPER FRIENDS #30—Can even the *Super Friends* stop "Gorilla Warfare Against the Humans"? Only E. Nelson Bridwell, Ramona Fradon and Bob Smith know the answer.

UNKNOWN SOLDIER #240—The fearless warrior finds that there's "No God in St. Just" in a Bob Haney, Dick Ayers and Gerry Talaoc story. Then Janus Mitchell and Tony Henson serve up a battlefield "Christmas Dinner".

ASK THE ANSWER MAN!

Q: How long have you been with DC and where did you get your super-answer powers?—Barbara Long. **A:** I've been here 6½ years and got my powers after being exposed to DC comics at age 7.

Q: Who have been members of the *Injustice Society*?—Bill Behrens. **A:** *The Gambler*, *Brain Wave*, *Vandal Savage*, *Degaton*, the *Thinker*, the *Wizard*, the *Ice*, *Huntress*, *Sportsmaster*, the *Fiddler*, the *Harlequin*, and *Solomon Grundy*.

Q: Who is taller, *Batman* or *Captain America*?—Taco-Clark. **A:** I don't know, but if I can get them in the same room together, I'll find out.

Q: How much is *NEW GODS* #3 worth?—Pat Rawnsley. **A:** \$1.20 in good condition.

Q: In what issue of *GREEN LANTERN* did Itty die?—Jonathan Cohen. **A:** Itty didn't die; he became a higher form of life in *GL* #106.

Q: When *Superman* becomes Clark Kent, how does he fit his cape inside his shirt and pants?—Scott Copeland. **A:** He folds it inside the back of his shirt and flattens it with super-pressure.

Q: In what issue did *Black Canary* join the *JLA*?—Sean Devaney. **A:** She was officially inducted in *JLA* #78.

Q: Will *Green Lantern* ever meet *Sinestro* again?—Bobby Cummings. **A:** This deadly duo battle it out in the current issues of *GREEN LANTERN*!

Q: Will we ever see Mr. Terrific again?—Christopher Chance. **A:** No; he's dead. (By the way, is your name really Christopher Chance?)

Q: What ever happened to *Bathound*?—Peder Magee. **A:** I think he retired to the Daisy Hill Doggy Rest Home.



IT'S A **DOUBLE CELEBRATION**!!
THE **200TH** ISSUE OF **SUPERMAN FAMILY**
AND THE **17TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY** OF
CLARK KENT & LOIS LANE!

**JOURNEY
20 YEARS
INTO THE
FUTURE!**

**MEET
PLANET
EDITOR
JIMMY
OLSEN...**

**GOVERNOR
LINDA
(SUPERWOMAN)
DANVERS...**

**AND A
NEW
MEMBER
OF THIS
FAMILY--
WHO IS
ON THIS
COVER!**



On Sale DEC. 6!

The poster features a vertical rainbow beam of light in the center. On the left side of the beam, the faces of Captain Kirk (William Shatner) and Ilia (Persis Khambhata) are visible. On the right side, the face of Spock (Leonard Nimoy) is visible. At the bottom of the beam, the USS Enterprise (NCC-1701-A) is shown in flight. The background is a dark space filled with stars and a nebula. The title "STAR TREK" is written in a large, stylized, multi-colored font, and "THE MOTION PICTURE" is written in a smaller, white font below it.

STAR TREK

THE MOTION PICTURE

THE HUMAN ADVENTURE IS JUST BEGINNING.



PROMETHEUS